Using Dissemination Science to Increase Physician Identification and Treatment of Alcohol Problems

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Medical Education is part of NIAAA’s Mission

**NIAAA** provides leadership in the national effort to reduce alcohol-related problems by:

- Conducting and supporting research in a wide range of scientific areas including genetics, neuroscience, epidemiology, health risks and benefits of alcohol consumption, prevention, and treatment.

- Coordinating and collaborating with other research institutes and Federal Programs on alcohol-related issues

- Collaborating with international, national, state, and local institutions, organizations, agencies, and programs engaged in alcohol-related work

  Translating and disseminating research findings to health care providers, researchers, policymakers, and the public
Dissemination Science is Part of the NIH Mission

Dissemination is the targeted distribution of information to a specific public health or clinical practice audience. The intent is to spread knowledge and the associated evidence-based intervention.

Research on dissemination addresses how information about health promotion and care interventions are created, packaged, transmitted, and interpreted among a variety of important stakeholder groups.

Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research, NIH
NIAAA past efforts
What was the impact of NIAAA Medical Education efforts?

Was there an increase in teaching about alcohol?

Was there an increase in teaching confidence?

Were physician attitudes, skills and knowledge being improved?

Were patients being screened and identified as a result?

Were patient outcomes affected?
2002 – Present: Dissemination Research

NIAAA R-25 Grant Program “Alcohol Education Project Grants”

$250,000 per year for 2 or 3 years

*Projects designed to support the science of dissemination of new knowledge acquired through alcohol research to a wide array of health professionals…*
R25 Project Outcomes

- **Improved faculty confidence and increased teaching**
  - Alford et al *BMC Medical Education*.
  - Shellenberger et al *Academic Medicine* 84 (3)

- **Improved physician knowledge, attitudes, performance**
  - Academic ED SBIRT Collaborative. *Substance Abuse*. 28 (4)
  - Shellenberger et al *Academic Medicine* 84 (3)
    - Simulation that combines video, voice recognition and non branching logic to create an interactive environment that allows trainees to encounter complex social cues and realistic interpersonal exchanges

- **Improved patient outcomes**
What’s next?

- Studies of education interventions that broaden the focus of physician education beyond Screening and Brief Intervention to include neurobiology of addiction, effective treatments (i.e. medications)
- Improve alcohol content questions on medical student and licensing exams
- Ensure the expectations of alcohol/addiction identification and treatment as quality care
- Requirements will drive the education quality
- Use of technological advances in skill development
Current NIAAA Materials for Health Professionals

NIAAA Clinician's Guide Online Training
NIAAA Alcohol Treatment Navigator: Pointing the way to evidence-based care

https://alcoholetreatment.niaaa.nih.gov/

The search for alcohol treatment can feel overwhelming. NIAAA’s Alcohol Treatment Navigator will help you focus your search to find options that increase the chance for success.

- No commercial ties
- An emphasis on evidence-based approaches
- A goal to educate

5 Signs of Higher Quality Care:

- Credentials
- Comprehensive assessment
- Customized, responsive, treatment plan
- Evidence-based therapies
- Continuing recovery support
Thank you

- Joan Romaine
- Fred Donodeo
- Cara Breeden
- Bridget Williams -Simmons